

Young designer fashions clothes, burgeoning career

By Brenda Kirkpatrick
Sentinel-Voice

Not all teens bide their leisure time watching television, working the World Wide Web, or nixing Nintendo-spawned netherworld monsters.

Keisha McDaniel does some of the above. She also makes clothes. Well.

At last month's MAGIC SHOW — the Las Vegas Convention Center hosted a Las Vegas venerable showcase for the nation's retail and wholesale clothiers — the 10-year-old Las Vegas unveiled "Kee-Dog for the Pretty Tomboy," her clothing line for girls 10 and up.

The Kee-Dog dubbed apparel — titled after her nickname, carried over well. The logo is a dog's paw print.

Impressed with the clothing — more than 15 multi-colored hip-hop inspired feminine garments and outfits — a representative from Spike

Lee's Mecca Clothing Line and an Avarex Clothing official promised to keep in touch and hinted that the companies might throw financial backing to the clothing line.

That such a young designer is poised to make waves in the fashion industry is even more impressive considering the Mountain View Christian School pupil already has a full plate.

An honor roll student, McDaniels plays basketball, football, is a goalie for the "Redhots" soccer team, a member of the Girl Scouts, Troop #291 and helps mom with the chores.

But when all her commitments have been fulfilled, she frees her mind, and thinks, clothes.

According to McDaniel's mother, Joyce, her daughter's affinity for clothes design was unearthed in church.

"One Sunday, when we were in church the head usher



Photo special to Sentinel-Voice by Joyce McDaniel

Models for KEE DOG: Clothing for the Pretty Tomboy, take time out from the runway to discuss with entrepreneur Russell Simmons the in's and out's of the fashion industry.

told Keisha that she couldn't usher that day because her attire wasn't appropriate for the occasion," Joyce McDaniel said. "After crying about the rejection, Keisher decided to design her own clothes."

Keisha McDaniel described

the creation process: "First, an idea comes to me. The idea may come in color. I like all colors. In the winter, I prefer fleece fabric, but in the summer, I use terry cloth or cotton.

"Next, I draw or sketch the

idea. I first draw a head and then a body with the clothes on it. I use pencils. Then, my older brother and my mother look at the sketch and give me advice about any adjustment that might be made.

"Then my mother and I shop

for the fabric and take the sketch and the fabric to Ms. Green. She's a friend of the family.

"She makes the patterns and sews the outfits. For special orders or embroideries, we take the clothes to Buttons to Zips and to S. & J. Unlimited."

And people are taking notice.

Magazines like *Charcoal*, *News Las Vegas*, *Kids Magazine* and *Stress Magazine* have all written about the burgeoning designer.

Keisha McDaniel is accustomed to the limelight, having won the "Young American Stars State Championship Beauty Pageant and capturing the Little Miss Black Nevada crown.

Her mother said it seems like she went directly from ruffles to boots.

The native Las Vegas is not only making waves in the grown-up world.

(See Designer, Page 9)

Rapper's lyrics earn him jail

Special to Sentinel-Voice

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — A rap artist convicted on firearms charges in a 1994 shooting is back in jail because authorities say anti-police lyrics on his latest album violate conditions of his parole.

Shawn Thomas, who records under the name C-Bo, was arrested Tuesday and held without bail while the state Board of Prison Terms considers the case.

Thomas is charged with threatening public officials, promoting violence against public officials, promoting a gang lifestyle, criminal behavior and violence against law enforcement. Punishment ranges from admonishment to a year in jail.

In the song "Deadly Game" from the record, "Til My
(See Rapper, Page 14)

Ceremony to honor women of color

By Sandra-Dee Fleming
Special to Sentinel-Voice

The Rose Awards, on Saturday, July 18, will continue its 13-year tradition of honoring women of color who made a difference in Las Vegas.

Faye Duncan Daniel, president of the Black Women's Alliance, created the awards ceremony after attending several workshops which failed to broach topics important to women of color.

"I left those workshops thinking the issues that were discussed were not relevant to us," she said. "They didn't

discuss employment opportunities or networking, things that we have today."

She said honoring women trailblazers was important because she often heard children complaining they had no role models.

"We honor women from 18-90 years of age," she said. "Women who exhibit self respect and confidence. Women who are not quitters. When we started, we showcased women who were the 'first' (in their field). Now we honor women who are the best."

Also, "We didn't want to wait until someone had died before we said, 'Thank you,'" said Faye Duncan Daniel, president of the Black Women's Alliance.

Nominations in the categories of social/family/charitable achievements, academic achievements, economic/business achievements and community achievements, are being accepted until March 11 for this year's awards show.

This year's ceremony, sponsored by Nevada Power Company, KVVU-TV Fox-5

and the Community College of Southern Nevada, will be held at the West Las Vegas Performing Arts Theater, 951 W. Lake Mead Blvd.

Tickets are \$25 per person. The proceeds will be used to purchase literary works and career exploration books for women inmates.

Past honorees include: LaBertha Johnson, the state's first black nurse; Mabel Hoggard, the first black female principle; and Mother Hughes, the first black businesswomen in Las Vegas. For more information call 631-0000.

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